2020

Number 3

NCNA *Journal*

NCNA Journal

Volume 46 2020 Number 3

Making change the old fashioned way?

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Writing for the NCNA Journal

The *NCNA Journal* welcomes original articles on all facets of numismatics; articles related to North Carolina numismatics are particularly encouraged. Submission of previously published articles will be considered on a case-by-case basis; prior publication source should be noted at time of submission. The NCNA reserves the right to edit all submissions for length, format and/or content.

Digital copies of submissions are preferred; they should be sent via email to: ghcheek@earthlink.net. Typewritten articles are also accepted; they should be sent to: Greg Cheek, PO Box 185, Yadkinville, NC 27055. Greg Cheek has replaced Dave Provost as the NCNA Journal editor for the remainder of 2020.

The inclusion of images in support of a submitted article is very much appreciated. Digital images of 300 dpi (or higher) are preferred. Files in JPG format are preferred; please contact the editor before sending images in other formats. Questions regarding images should be directed to the editor. ***PLEASE NOTE: The copyright for all images submitted must be owned by the submitter; submission of images downloaded from the internet without prior permission is not acceptable.***

Authors of articles submitted are eligible for the NCNA's **Bason Literary Award**. It is given each year in recognition of outstanding contributions to the *NCNA Journal* and/or other numismatic publications.

Advertising in the Journal

Advertisement artwork should be submitted in "camera ready" digital form (300 dpi or greater) whenever possible; a clean business card can be submitted for one-third page ad requests. A $35 charge will be incurred if the NCNA is required to design an advertisement prior to its publication. Payment is due prior to the first insertion.

Advertising Rates

	One Insertion	Annual (4x)
One-Third Page	$20	$60
Half Page	$30	$100
Full Page	$60	$200
Back Cover (Full Color)	N/A	$300

Submission Deadlines for Articles and Advertisements

Issue 1 – February 1 Issue 2 – June 1
Issue 3 – September 1 Issue 4 – November 1

NCNA Journal

The Official Publication of the
North Carolina Numismatic Association

Volume 46 2020 Number 3

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The *NCNA Journal* is published four times per year by the North Carolina Numismatic Association. The opinions expressed in the articles published are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the position of the North Carolina Numismatic Association or the Editor.
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Important Message for 2020 NCNA Convention – October 2-4

As the Journal goes to print, the **NCNA Convention & Coin Show is scheduled to occur October 2-4**. Please check our website prior to attending the show: http://www.ncna.club/convention. Visit the website also for information such as show schedule, dealers setting up at the show, hotels, restaurants, etc. Several protocols will be in place to ensure everyone's health and safety. These are required in order to hold the event. We hope these protocols will allow you to feel comfortable in attending the show.

1. **Mask wearing is required**. Face shields are not sufficient. Cabarrus Arena and Events Center will be strictly adhering to NC mandates.

2. A trained medical professional will be **taking everyone's temperature** and administering a very short health questionnaire before entrance each day. The temperature threshold is 100.00 degrees.

3. **Dealer tables will be spread out** 10 feet apart across an expanded bourse floor, with wider aisles for safe social distancing.

4. **Bathrooms and high touch surfaces will be cleaned** with a CDC approved sanitizing spray by Cabarrus Arena staff at least once per hour.

5. **Sanitizing stations** will be available throughout the bourse floor.

6. **Covid-19 related signage** will be placed throughout the bourse floor.

7. Show hours are Friday/Saturday 10AM – 6PM and Sunday 10AM – 3PM. **Collectors 60+ years of age can enter at 9AM** each morning. NCNA members can enter at 9:30 am. Early bird for $50 can enter Thursday from 2PM – 8PM and 8AM Fri-Sun. A maximum number of people are allowed on the bourse floor at one time, so please **consider avoiding the busiest time which is typically 11AM – 2PM**.

8. Pre-registration is available on our web site at: Http:www.ncna.club/convention.
Bring your completed pre-registration form to the show to enter the express line.

9. Unfortunately, we will not be able to hold certain events such as the educational seminars, Boy Scout Merit Badge program, and educational exhibits.. However, we are still allowed to hold the YN treasure hunt.

10. **FREE Parking**.

President's Message

Greetings fellow collectors, dealers, and NCNA members! I hope this September edition of the NCNA Journal finds you safe and well.

What more can we say about 2020? Since the last issue of the NCNA Journal, almost all coin and stamp shows have continued to be cancelled across the state and country due to the COVID situation. With local authorities and event organizers still having to make tough decisions regarding the scheduling of shows, the safety and well-being of show attendees is at the forefront. That is the challenge that we have taken on in preparing for the **2020 NCNA Convention & Coin Show, Scheduled for October 2-4.** Much has been done with COVID in mind, and at this point, the **SHOW is a GO!**

Please be sure to read the **Important Message for NCNA Convention and Show** on the opposing page of the journal. It provides a summary of what you should expect at the show in regard to COVID related concerns.

The **bourse layout has been significantly expanded and adjusted to provide proper spacing between dealers** to accommodate North Carolina and local health agency mandated social distancing rules.

Perry Siegel, our bourse chairman, has worked closely with the NCNA Board of Directors and the Cabarrus Arena staff to develop a great plan for the show. We will follow all CDC and North Carolina state mandates and guidelines, along with Cabarrus Arena protocols to provide a safe environment in which to hold the show. The arena will facilitate one way entry and exit for the show, with hand sanitizer stations placed in strategic locations. **Temperature checks** will be performed by Cabarrus Arena staff and **masks will be required for ALL show attendees for the entire show. Please note also that masks will NOT be provided by Cabarrus Arena and the NCNA.** Social distancing will also be stressed at the registration entrance and throughout the bourse floor.

Please check us out on Facebook at ***www.facebook.com/NCCollector*** or our website at ***www.NCNA.CLUB*** for updated information as we get closer to the show.

Please note that **some of the usual convention activities and programs associated with the convention will not be held this year for obvious reasons**. This includes the dealer setup night dinner, education seminars, Boy Scout program, and exhibits. While we were unable to set up the

Young Collector Zone as in past years, we will conduct the Young Collector Treasure Hunt on Saturday only. Recipients of Yearly NCNA Awards will notified soon, with winners announced at the convention.

The NCNA Board of Directors (BOD) met on August 13th via conference call. After discussion on the upcoming election of officers and board members for 2021, the **BOD voted to extend the current slate of officers and board of directors until October 2021**, as an emergency measure to better deal with the COVID situation. We plan to return to the NCNA standard election process for 2021.

We have received many 2020 membership renewals, but we encourage you to **renew your NCNA membership** as soon as possible if you have not already done so. **If your label indicates no date or 2018, then this will be the last journal that you receive, unless you renew membership for 2020**. Send in your 2020 Membership renewal to Halbert Carmichael, Secretary/Treasurer. Contact him if you have any questions regarding your membership status, especially if you think you have already paid dues beyond the date listed on the address label.

Also want to remind you about the recently introduced **NCNA Young Numismatist Scholarship Program**. Information about this program can be found on the NCNA website at ***www.NCNA.CLUB/yn-program***.

As always, feel free to reach out to me, other NCNA officers, or members of the NCNA Board of Directors. We are here to assist with local club efforts and are always looking for ways to make the hobby stronger and more meaningful for the membership as well as the collecting community as a whole.

I continue to be optimistic that better times are ahead for our hobby. Many coin shops have reopened under social distancing guidelines, and sales have been picking up for them. Many collectors and dealers continue with brisk business online via websites, auctions, and platforms such as Ebay. Even though most local clubs have not been able to hold meetings yet, please continue to stay in touch with members of your local clubs, dealers, and other friends in the hobby. My prayers continue for your safety and well-being in these unprecedented times.

Happy collecting to each of you and I wish you the best. Be safe out there and I hope to see you at the Convention!

Greg Cheek, NCNA President

Looking for a Local Coin Club?

Find out more about coin clubs in your area by visiting

www.NCNA.club

Click on the "Coin Clubs" tab at the top of any page on the website.

Join the NCNA Facebook page at

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Visit the NCNA Website at

www.NCNA.CLUB

About the Cover for this issue of the NCNA Journal … On the cover of this edition of the Journal are images of early colonial coins of the North and South America provided by Tom Wood. You can find more on these unusual coins featured in **"Find it in the Red Book".**

Notes from the Editor's Desk

Once again, I'm excited about the broad assortment of subjects in this edition of the NCNA Journal. Many thanks to those who provided articles and columns!

Bob Pedolsky, NCNA Young Numismatist Coordinator, has provided some wonderful suggestions for "**Adding to Your Numismatic Library"** this time in the "Young Collector's News".

Tom Wood presents us with some challenging yet interesting questions on pre-Federal "Silver Dollars" that circulated during the Colonial Period in North America for "**Look it up in the RED BOOK**".

David Boitnott shares from his personal collecting experience to explore **"Charlotte Counterfeits"**. David provides some great observations and insights into detecting "Charlotte Mint" counterfeit gold coins.

Paul Horner is with us again, this time with revealing observations in **"The Impossible Engine"** regarding 19th Century currency bearing the images of trains.

Perry Siegel, our resident "Ancient Guy" gives us a look at **"Jesus Christ on Ancient Coins"** by providing us with some great history and example images of beautiful gold and silver Roman and Byzantine coins.

Danny Freeman gives us a lesson in **"History 101"** with "A Blast from the Past". This time Danny shares some comparative historical commentary regarding money issued by the Roman Empire and the United States. History does indeed repeat itself!

Bob Schreiner highlights **"The Story of North Carolina Money"** exhibit at the North Carolina Collection Gallery which is part of the Wilson Special Collections Library at UNC-Chapel. Bob invites you to visit this fantastic collection when COVID restrictions are lifted.

Cole Peoples, one of our Young Numismatist contributors, shares his keen interest in collecting Japanese and Chinese coins in **"Dream Coins I'll Probably Never Own"**. Great job Cole!

Thanks again to all for these great articles! I encourage others to consider submitting articles too, as this is the lifeblood of a robust NCNA Journal.

Until next time – Greg Cheek

Secretary's Report

Halbert Carmichael is the NCNA Secretary/Treasurer.
Please direct all NCNA correspondence to him at the following address:

Halbert Carmichael
NCNA Treasurer
PO Box 5625
Raleigh, NC 27605

Halbert takes care of all incoming membership applications/payments and other financial matters for the NCNA. He is also available to assist with inquiries regarding your membership status as well.

Be watchful for important updates posted by Halbert in this section of the Journal.

Young Collector's News

Adding to Your Numismatic Library

From Bob Pedolsky – NCNA YN Coordinator

Welcome to young numismatists of all ages!

During these unusual times, I hope you are all doing well and enjoying the wonderful hobby of coin collecting.

Over the past few months we have all been trying to organize and enjoy our hobby in many ways- shopping on line, searching the web for new coins to add to our collection, or maybe just reviewing our collection and enjoying the coins that we already have. With a lot of uncertainty as to what will transpire in the next few months due to Covid-19, this might be a good time to gather a few books to read for the fall and winter of 2020. Here are some books that every collector should have in their library.

1) A Guide Book of United States Coins, by R. S. Yeoman, commonly known as The Red Book, is an obligatory masterpiece that every collector should have and read (not just scan prices) every 4-5 years. Read what is new in the first 30-40 pages. Towards the back, see what they have added to the catalogue of interesting topics. If you are into all the numbers and statistics, then maybe the Mega Red Book is for you. Other specific countries of the world like Canada, Great Britain and Mexico also have guide books as well as some other countries. Then there is the Standard Catalog of World Coins, by Krause Publications, in volumes by century and countries, with pictures of most coins. But most of them don't have the depth of the Red Book.

2) For learning about grading, there are many different publishers and writers that have produced grading guides, starting with A Guide to the Grading of United States Coins, by Brown & Dunn. Then there is "Making the Grade", by the staff of Coin World. But I find the best for me is PCGS's Official Guide to Coin Grading and Counterfeit Detection, first edition, edited by Scott A. Travers. They have published updated volumes but I like the first edition best. Whichever guide gives pictures and written description that you relate to best should be the one for you!

3) There are many “how to collect” coin books. But if you want some fun and have seen the "For Dummies" series of books, then, Coin Collecting for Dummies by Ron Guth, is a great guide on how to get started in collecting coins. My favorite is The Expert's Guide to Collecting and Investing in Rare Coins, by Q. David Bowers. Bowers has an easy and fun style of writing, both to read and understand. Bowers covers everything you need to know about the hobby- getting started, explaining the coin market, understanding value and rarity, history of the coin market, grading, storage, how to buy and sell at auctions and coins on the internet. He gives a breakdown of each series of United States coins including currency, tokens, medals, the Confederacy and other branches of numismatics. It is a wonderful in depth book, not only to get you started, but to refer to as you progress.

4) Next is get specific in the coins you like and get a book or books on a specific series such as The Flying Eagle & Indian Cent Attribution Guides (multiple volumes), by Rick E. Snow. This will teach you about the specifics of a series right in your hands. The research by experts is already done for you. All you have to do is study the findings and use the material any way you can to advance your hobby pursuits. Whitman Publishing has been producing various books on different series over the past few years in a familiar format that collectors appreciate. The series includes popular coins such as Buffalo and Jefferson Nickels, Morgan Dollars, Double Eagle Gold Coins, Type Coins, and numerous others written by many experts in each series.

5) Now have fun and learn about different aspects of your hobby. Ship of Gold in the Deep Blue Sea, by Gary Kinder, is a recap of the sinking of the S. S. Central America, in 1857, to its finding and the recovery of coins and other treasures over 130 years later. Million Dollar Nickels, by Paul Montgomery Mark Borckardt, and Ray Knight, is the telling of the clandestine making of the five 1913 Liberty Head nickels. Their history reads like a crime novel, a history book about the wealthy who collect coins and the times they lived in, and a mystery book with a twist ending! What fun, and it is all true.

There are many fascinating books on coins for all levels. They will not only increase your knowledge about coins but life in general. So, pick up a book about coins and read it with an open mind and have FUN!

Take care!
Bob

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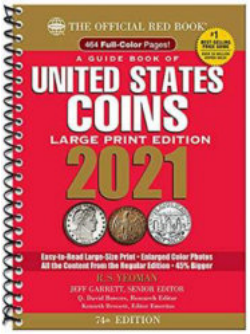
Look it up in the RED BOOK



"Look it up in the REDBOOK" is a new column that will test your knowledge of U.S. coins using R.S. Yeoman's well known A Guide Book of United States Coins - **THE OFFICIAL RED BOOK**. You will be challenged with questions that can be found in this great reference on U.S. coins. The first person to email the editor of the Journal at ghcheek@earthlink.net, with the correct answers to all ten questions, will **win a 2020 Silver Eagle**. By the way, Jason Mann was the winner in the inaugural edition of "Look it up in the REDBOOK" in the July NCNA Journal. Let's give it another try!

In this 2nd edition of "Look it up in the REDBOOK", Tom Wood, a noted collector and dealer in Ancient and U.S. Colonial Coins, has provided the ten questions and images for the following coins, which are representative of pre-Federal "Silver Dollars" that circulated during the Colonial Period in North America. Tom introduces the challenge below…

The earliest settlers to the "new world" were accustomed to seeing the silver coinage from their countries of origin; England, Spain, France, Netherlands, and many others. The following coins are commonly circulated freely for use in colonial America and usually pre-date the US Federal minting of our Silver Dollars [one of the most popular collecting types in US Coins]. For several years now, unbeknownst to most US collectors, the coins below have also been in the Red Book and are greatly undervalued when compared to their scarcity in the collecting marketplace.

Using the Red Book as a guide can lead the Silver Dollar collector to find some very interesting types to add to their collection, most of which are far earlier dates than their collections might have today. As you might expect, the information on these interesting types may be found in the beginning of the listed Red Book type coins, and in the Introduction to US Coins starting on page 11.

Read on and find out more about these interesting coin types by using the 2020 Red Book to answer the following questions.

1) What is the Red Book type of the coin pictured to the right?

2) Name the Red Book type of the coin pictured to the right?

3) Where is a second location in the Red Book you find for the coin in question 2?

4) In what city was the coin in question 2 minted?

5) What is the type name of the coin pictured to the right?

6) The coins pictured to the right were actually cut fractions of the above 3 type coins. Give two interesting facts about these cut "pieces of eight". Information is found in two different locations in the Red Book for these unusual pieces.

7) What is the common name for the Netherlands Silver Coinage (pictured to the right) that actively circulated in the US from Maine down to the east coast to the Carolinas?

8) From where is the name of our denomination "Dollar" derived from?

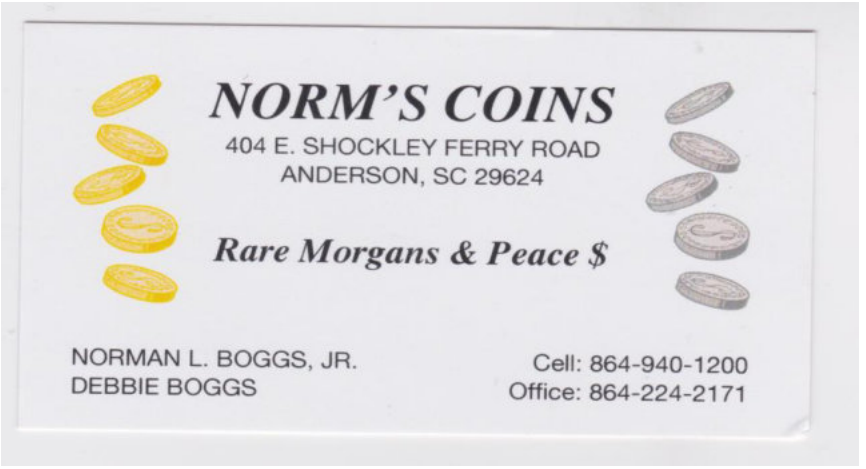
9) Who are the rulers that might be portrayed on the coin types as indicated by the large silver coin below? What is the name of the denomination shown?

10) All of these foreign silver dollar-sized coins circulated freely as legal tender in the US until what year?

We hope you enjoyed this "treasure hunt" for the information about these early circulating silver coins. You might find some of these coins to be an easy fit into your own American type coin collection or as a logical additional to your US Silver Dollar collection

Don't forget that the first person to email the editor of the Journal at ghcheek@earthlink.net, with the correct answers to all ten questions, will **win a 2020 Silver Eagle**.

The 2021 Edition of the Red Book is now available and can be purchased at most coin shops and coins shows.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Charlotte Counterfeits

A Tale of Two Real Fakes

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The United States Branch Mint at Charlotte, North Carolina, over it's almost quarter century of operation (1838–1861) produced many interesting coins, characters and stories. Its "C" Mint gold coins are highly sought after by collectors of this historic North Carolina establishment's coinage. Oh my, it unfortunately turns out not all "Charlotte" gold coins were minted at that time or even in that place!

The Backstory

I started my Charlotte gold collection back in the mid-1980s and was always told that the coins from Charlotte and Dahlonega were not subject to counterfeiting. The rationale being that the distinct color of southern Appalachian gold, the quant crudeness of the planchets and unique strike characteristics of these southern gold mints made it almost impossible for counterfeiters to duplicate. For nearly thirty-five years in my experience this assumption held true; however, in just over a year now I have seen and been able to purchase two confirmed Charlotte counterfeit gold coins. Interestingly they are both 1851 dated one-dollar coins.

The 1851-C dollar relatively speaking is the most common and least expensive of all the Charlotte coins. This makes the coin popular with collectors who are on a budget, not put off by the coin's diminutive size and want to own just a single example of North Carolina gold. I can see where being budget minded the temptation to purchase one raw at a discount might be very tempting to some. But, now knowing that counterfeits of this date and denomination exist and are plentiful enough for two to find me in a year's time causes me much concern.

I found these two counterfeits interesting and compelling enough to want to purchase them for my collection. Please understand I knew their status when I bought them and was not "taken" in either of the deals. My purpose was to study them, learn what I could and then share that knowledge with and hopefully educate fellow Charlotte gold collectors and dealers about this threat to our hobby.

The first counterfeit coin was discovered at a local coin shop in Raleigh when a customer brought it in to sell. The coin shop proprietor tested it for its gold composition and it passed with flying colors. However, there was still some uncertainty about its authenticity. To confirm or repute the coin's authenticity the proprietor submitted it to NGC for a

professional third-party opinion for his customer and himself. NGC flagged it as "Not Genuine" and returned it unholdered. Yikes!

After getting the coin back the dealer, who is a fellow member of the Raleigh Coin Club with me, told me about the experience at one of our club meetings. Needless to say my interest was piqued and I had to at least see the coin. As stated earlier in thirty-five years of collecting Charlotte I had never seen a single counterfeit! Well after going to his shop and seeing the coin I had to have it for my collection. I was already having visions of how I could incorporate it in a revised edition of my "Charlotte Type Set" exhibit. However, the dealer's policy was to never sell a counterfeit coin but to remove it permanently from the numismatic market by turning it over to the secret service. Fortunately he knew me and knew my motives were pure and agreed to sell the coin.

I subsequently placed high resolution images of the coin on my website. I also showed the coin at various coin club meetings, coin shows and privately to anyone interested in seeing it firsthand. Along these lines, a quick side story comes to mind. At the 2019 NCNA convention in Charlotte a dealer who knew about the counterfeit flagged me down. He was in the middle of a heated debate with a potential customer who adamantly bought into the myth that Charlotte and Dahlonega coins were not subject to counterfeiting. The dealer wanted me to tell him about the coin and confirm that yes counterfeits were known. Surprising them both, I went a step further as I pulled the coin out of my wallet and proceeded with an impromptu show and tell session. Even more surprisingly, the gentleman was not impressed. In fact, he proceeded to tell me how NGC was full of it and that the coin look perfectly fine to him – he'd buy it. What could I do – an old saying about horses and water came to mind. That aside, what I did take away from the experience was there was definitely a need for more dissemination of information on this subject.

Fast forward to the November coin show in Raleigh and again I was approached by a dealer who was familiar with my counterfeit Charlotte piece. He asked me to look at a raw 1851-C dollar on behalf of another dealer and give my opinion as to whether it was "good" or not. Using the skills I developed in the ANA counterfeit detection course I took the year before I spotted several areas of concern about the coin and expressed my doubts about the coin's authenticity. It was Saturday so to be sure I suggested that on Sunday I bring my slabbed genuine and the NGC identified counterfeit 1851-C dollars to the show for side-by-side comparison to the suspect one.

After the side-by-side comparison I was convinced it was counterfeit and I think the two dealers were also of that opinion. However, the dealer who owned the coin wanted to send it to NGC to get a professional opinion. I couldn't really blame him as there was real money at stake here – about $70 gold melt versus about $1800 in XF/AU. This is when my collector mindset kicked in. As I have described I have a NGC identified counterfeit and label but it would be nice to add a PCGS label and counterfeit to the collection. I was mentally revising the exhibit yet again. So, I seized the opportunity and offered to buy the coin at melt and pay for the certification fees if it proved to be counterfeit if he would instead send it to PCGS. The dealer agreed. Well the fact you are looking at the picture and reading this you know how that tuned out.
Wow, $85 for the round trip and PCGS fees to evaluate the coin! Well that's a rant for another day!

The Coins Analyzed

For the record both counterfeits tested "good" for gold content. They were of the correct weight and the correct diameter. They appear to have been die struck and not cast.

Let's start our detailed analysis of these counterfeits with the first one I acquired the NGC identified coin. The first thing that caught my eye on the obverse was Miss Liberty's eye, more precisely her eyebrow. The raised metal in that area looks to be from a tooling mark and gives Miss Liberty an Egyptian Cleopatra look. Looking beyond this distraction the letters in LIBERTY are jumbled and not clear at all and the detail in the hair is also weak and mushy. Remember the 1851 dollar is one of the better struck Charlotte coins but can show some weakness; however, any thought of dismissing this to strike weakness goes away completely when it is compared to the reverse. The reverse looks much sharper and higher grade than the obverse – this was not a weakly

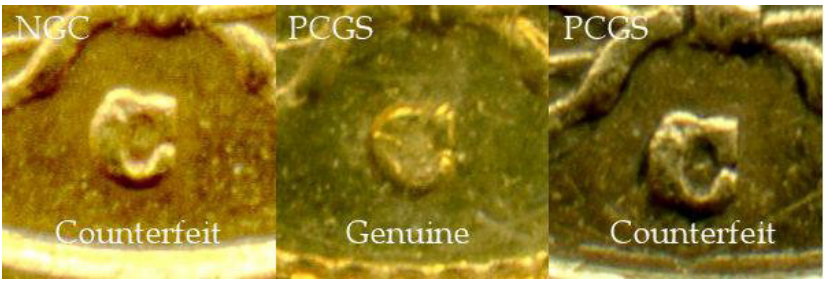
struck coin. A further examination of the obverse showed other telltale signs that we were taught in the ANA Counterfeit Detection class that would have had me walk away if this coin had been offered as the real deal.

Moving to the reverse of the NGC identified coin one finds more of the telltale signs of a potential counterfeit coin – raised metal where there should not be any, depressions in the fields and evidence of tooling of the die. The major areas of concern to me were the lack of dentals between 4 and 8 o'clock. There also appears to be tooling marks in this area especially under the UNI in UNITED. It should also be noted that there are bumps of extra metal on some of the berries. The most important part of any Charlotte piece that identifies that coin as coming from that mint has to be the mintmark. Interestingly this coin's mintmark has a depression or some damage at the upper left. This detail is very reminiscent of the R in LIBERTY on the famous Henning nickel counterfeits. But at this point, my quick key to identifying this coin as a counterfeit was the eyebrow mess on the obverse.

So, when I first saw the PCGS identified counterfeit my focus went straight to the eyebrow on the obverse. It looked normal. But with further examination something still did not look right. While the coin did show better than the NGC identified coin, it still had jumbled letters in LIBERTY and weak, mushy detail in the hair. The obverse also had a few of the telltale signs we look for but it did not immediately scream walk away.

Then I flipped the coin over and it was like looking at the face of a familiar friend. There were all the familiar characteristics, the lack of dentals between 4 and 8 o'clock, the tooling marks, extra metal and that odd looking depression in the mintmark. It was clear that the reverse of this coin was struck with the same reverse die as the NGC identified coin. The natural

assumption is that both coins were made by the same counterfeiter using the same dated Charlotte reverse die muled with different undated obverse dies. Thus depending on the obverse eyebrow detail is not the best key to quick identification of an 1851 Charlotte gold dollar instead the mintmark is. There is no telling how many different obverse dies may have been muled with this Charlotte reverse. It's not like the counterfeiter left us any records.



In researching counterfeit Charlotte coins I found an online forum discussing the authenticity of an 1851 Charlotte gold dollar where one of the posters references reprints of ANACS articles and his belief that the 1851-C dollar was covered by one of the articles. He also seemed to remember the "ding" on the mintmark being mentioned. Intrigued, I look through both volumes of the ANA Counterfeit Detection reprint books, the course material from the ANA class and the online indexes of the ANA Numismatist with no luck. This at least added some reinforcement to my recommendation of focusing on the mintmark as the key quick diagnostic. Oh, for the curious the coin they were commenting on in the forum was a counterfeit with a reverse that matched the two discussed here and an obverse that matched the PCGS identified coin.

I also procured a copy of the "Standard Catalog of United States Altered and Counterfeit Coins" by Virgil Hancock and Larry Spanbauer published in 1979 by Sanford J. Durst. In their section on counterfeit gold dollars they provided a chart of known counterfeited dates from Lebanon. Lebanon, home of the "Beirut Mint" as I like to call it. The Beirut Mint produced many small US gold counterfeits especially dollars and two-and-a-half Indians. Interestingly their list included known Charlotte mint marked coins from 1849, 1850, 1853 and 1855. No 1851! As common, relatively speaking, the 1851-C is I am surprised it was not in the list but again it's not exactly like we have mint records from the Beirut Mint so the authors could have simply just missed it.

In talking with various dealers I found a couple who recalled hearing about and seeing them in the 1970s. This leads me to believe these

counterfeits originated in the Middle East rather than from China. The Beirut Mint profited by melting genuine common date US twenty-dollar gold pieces that traded at near melt and making planchets for the smaller gold dollars and two-and-a-half Indians which trade at a numismatic premium. This would account for the gold content being dead on US coin specifications. But as with any counterfeit or counterfeiter, unless caught red-handed, we can really only speculate on who they were and what their motives were. I recommend you study the high resolution images and form your own opinion. If you are in the market for a Charlotte coin educate yourself and be an informed collector and purchaser. Don't rely completely on the slab either, buy the coin not the holder. If all else fails work with a dealer you know and trust. But if nothing else just beware of raw 1851-C dollars they just might be bad!

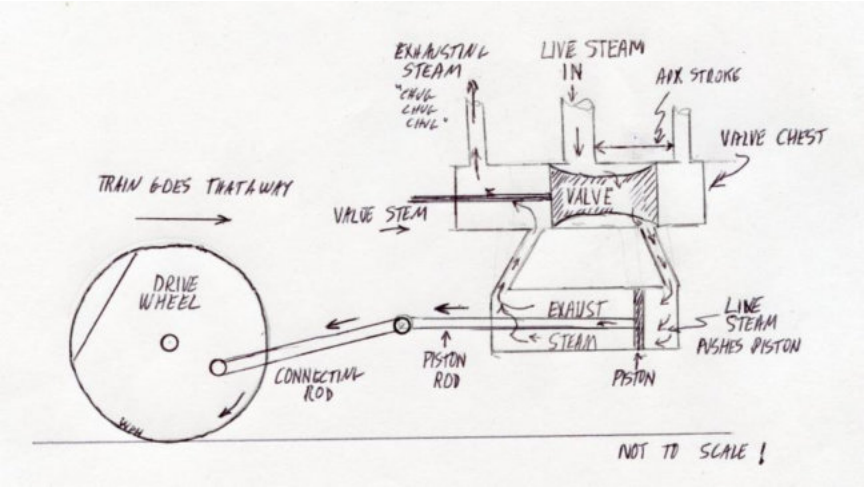
The Impossible Engine

By Paul Horner

The vignettes or pictures on notes are practically endless. Pick a topic and chances are you can find it on a note. Obsolete notes have 1000s of vignettes to choose from, and with scores of engravers and printers the selection is virtually endless. Some were designed and produced by masters of their craft, others, well, not so much. Take the locomotive shown here.

Image Courtesy of Heritage Auctions

This engraving was used by *Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson, Cincinnati & N.Y.* on a variety of bank notes beginning around 1853. The original engraver must have been fairly new at his craft. The vignette does not pop out as anything special with poor perspective and crude or missing details. There is a steam ship in the left background, an odd building façade behind the front of the 4-4-0 locomotive, the water goes almost to the tracks, and a factory is behind the train. The most interesting concept is that *this train engine cannot move under its' own power!* There are no connecting rods, valve chest, cylinder and piston or linkages shown. The white "bar" extending from the front center of the drive wheel forward, is a walkway with steps up to the engine cab. The engine on our vignette is missing all of the mechanical components that "makes it go." All that is shown is one connecting rod between the two drive wheels. Notice you can see the opposite drive wheels under the belly of the engine. A stowaway kid is riding on top of the wood in the tender. This is what you get when an artist draws a steam engine from memory but knows nothing about them. It's sort of like the blind man describing an elephant.



Original Artwork Courtesy of the Author

The basic concept of what makes a steam locomotive move may be interesting. Steam is admitted to the top of the valve chest. The valve moves fore & aft through connecting rods timed to the linkages of the drive wheels, the piston, and the throttle. As it moves, it opens a port at one end to allow steam into the piston cylinder. The other end of the valve simultaneously opens an exhaust port. Steam goes into the cylinder and pushes the piston. When the steam valve gets to the end of its stroke, it reverses and uncovers the opposite steam inlet port and the opposite exhaust port. This admits steam to the other side of the piston, and pushes the exhaust steam out. The piston "pushes" the drive wheel on one stroke, and "pulls" it on the next. The valve simply moves back and forth, putting high pressure steam first to one side of the piston, then the other. "Double acting." This makes the "chug chug chug" sound of the steam engine.

Image Courtesy of Heritage Auctions

The previous image is of a die proof from the American Bank Note Company. This artist included all of the mechanizations to make this engine GO.

FUNDABLE IN EIGHT PER CENT STOCK OR BONDS OF CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA
50
FIFTY
50
Six Months
after the
Ratification of a Treaty of peace between the Confederate States and the United States.
Confederate States of America
will pay Fifty Dollars to Bearer
Richmond, September 2, 1861.
for Register
for Treasurer
RECEIVABLE IN PAYMENT OF ALL DUES EXCEPT EXPORT DUTIES

Image Courtesy of Heritage Auctions

Collectors will recognize this "engine" on the Confederate $50 T-15 above. This note was printed by the Southern Bank Note Company, New Orleans; the Southern branch of the American Bank Note (ABN) Company. One of the parent companies of ABN was Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson.

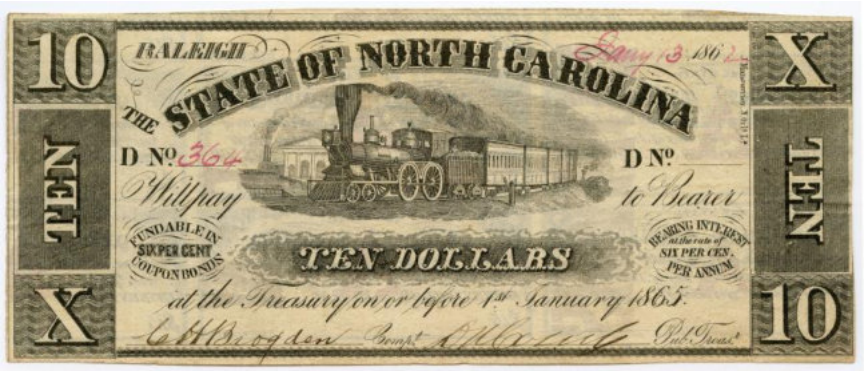


Image Courtesy of the Author

This train was also used as the central vignette on all of the 1862 dated $10 North Carolina Treasury Notes. When J. Manouvrier in New Orleans copied this design, he simply carried over all the goofy details of the original vignette. This note is one of the early January 1862 interest bearing notes, Cr-81.

COIN SHOW CALENDAR

Please note that shows listed below are subject to change or cancellation due to the COVID-19 situation. Be sure to check for updates for these shows on the NCNA Website prior to attending:
www.NCNA.club

AUG

8 – 9 **Sa: 10a-5p** **Su: 10a-4p**	**Statesville, NC - CANCELLED** *Iredell-Statesville Annual Coin Show* Statesville Civic Center 300 South Center Street Contact: Bill Brewer – 704.450.1639
17 – 18 **Sa: 9:30a-5:30p** **Su: 9:30a-3:30p**	**Salem, VA - CANCELLED** *Salem/Roanoke Valley Coin Show* American Legion 710 Apperson Drive Contact: Will Camp – 540.943.2267
15 – 16 **Sa: 10a-6p** **Su: 10a-4p**	**Raleigh, NC - CANCELLED** *Rare Coins of Raleigh Coin & Currency Show* NC State Fairgrounds, Martin Building 1025 Blue Ridge Road Contact: Shanna Mills – 919.790.8544

SEP

19 – 20 **Sa: 10a-6p** **Su: 10a-4p**	**Jacksonville, NC** *Rare Coins of Raleigh Coin & Currency Show* Hilton Garden Inn 1016 Jacksonville Parkway Contact: Shanna Mills – 919.790.8544
25 – 27 **Fr: 10a-6p** **Sa: 10a-6p** **Su: 10a-4p**	**Fredericksburg, VA - CANCELLED** VNA Convention & Coin Show Fredericksburg Expo Center 2371 Carl D Silver Parkway Contact: Richard Schornak – 757.659.0235

Attention show promoters!
Make sure your show gets listed in the NCNA Journal.
Send in your show information to: *ghcheek@earthlink.net*
at least four months ahead of time.

OCT

2 – 4 **Fr: 10a-6p** **Sa: 10a-6p** **Su: 10a-4p**	**Concord, NC** ***NCNA Convention and Coin Show*** **Cabarrus Arena and Events Center** **4751 Highway 49 North** **Contact: Perry Siegel – 704.488.4787**
Oct. 30 – **Nov. 1** **Fr: 10a-6p** **Sa: 10a-6p** **Su: 10a-3p**	**Greenville, SC** *SCNA Convention and Coin Show* TD Convention Center 1 Exposition Drive Contact: Bill Latour – 843.532.5089

NOV

7 – 8 **Sa: 10a-6p** **Su: 10a-4p**	**Goldsboro, NC** *Wayne County Coin Club Show* Elks Lodge 105 E Chestnut St. Contact: Frank Aanenson – 919.920.9228 Dealer setup Nov. 6 Fri: 3p-7p
21 – 22 **Sa: 10a-5p** **Su: 10a-3p**	**Raleigh, NC** *Carolina Coin & Stamp Show* NC State Fairgrounds Gov. James E. Holshouser Building 1025 Blue Ridge Road Contact: Bill Brewer – 704.775.4672
28 – 29 **Sa: 10a-6p** **Su: 10a-3p**	**Rocky Mount , NC** Moose Lodge 521 Country Club Road Contact: Shanna Millis – 919.790.8544

THE ANCIENT GUY

By Perry Siegel

Jesus Christ on Ancient Coins

Constantine the Great is often referred to as the first Christian Roman emperor. He was the first emperor to profess Christianity, initiating the evolution of the empire into a Christian state. He is said to have received instructions in a dream to paint the Christian monogram (*Chi-Rho*) on his troops' shields. He did so upon awakening, and that very day Constantine's army fought against Maxentius in the famous Battle of the Milvian Bridge in A.D. 312. He placed the *Chi-Rho* on some of his coins in the years after his conversion to Christianity. But the cautious Constantine did not prominently display Christian symbols, nor did he depict a portrait of Christ on his coins. In fact, a portrait of Christ did not make its first appearance on a coin for approximately another 350 years!

Justinian II ascended to the throne in A.D. 685 at the ripe age of 16. His early coinage was conventional, bearing his portrait (often beautifully executed by a talented master engraver) on the obverse and a cross on steps reverse. But in A.D. 692, he introduced an extraordinary innovation, placing a bearded, long-haired portrait of Christ on the obverse of a gold coin, with the Latin inscription, "Jesus Christ, King of Those Who Reign" (IHS CRISTOS REX REGNANTIUM). The reverse depicts the standing figure of the emperor with the inscription "Justinian Servant of

Gold Solidus of Justinian II, 1st Reign

Christ". This represents the first time Christ appears on coinage! He displays the traits of a classical philosopher on this first portrait. The great French numismatist Lacam has referred to this bearded portrait as the "Christ of the Ascension and Redemption". This image, often described as Christ Pantocrator ("Ruler of all things"), seemingly derives from the gold and ivory statue of Zeus in the temple at Olympia, created by the sculptor Phidias circa 435 B.C.

Overthrown in a palace coup in A.D. 695, Justinian's nose was mutilated and he was exiled to a remote outpost in the Crimea. Mutilation was considered more humane than execution, since it rendered the victim permanently ineligible for the throne. In exile, Justinian had his nose repaired by a surgeon and plotted his return to power, which he accomplished in A.D. 705. There was another dramatic change in the coinage, for reasons unknown. This time Justinian II resumed the use of Christ's image on coinage, but instead of the long-haired image of his first coinage, he chose a radically different style of portrait – a 'Semitic" or "Syrian" type' in which Christ's hair and beard are rendered in short, tight curls. The likely source of this style of portrait were icons, perhaps from monasteries in the Holy Land and the Near East. It has also been said to have derived from a portrait painted from life by the apostle Luke. The reverse bears Justinian's face (with a perfectly normal-looking nose!) and a new Latin inscription, "Justinian, Many Years". Shortly afterward, Justinian added the image of his young son Tiberius to the reverse. They hold a cross between them.

Gold Solidus of Justinian II, 2nd Reign

Both the first and second reign issues of Christ portraits used by Justinian II show Christ cradling the Book of the Gospels in his left arm, as he raises his right hand in benediction. They also depict the Holy Cross behind his head, an element which differs from most Byzantine coin portraits of Christ, on which he is shown nimbate and adorned with a halo.

Overthrown by a military coup on November 4, 711, Justinian and his son were executed. The coinage returned to the conventional cross-on-steps reverse for over a century, during the period of the "Iconoclast Controversy". When the last Iconoclast ruler, Theophilus, died on January 20, 842, his widow Theodora restored the image of Christ to the coinage. Coins issued in her name as regent for her son Michael III are extremely rare, but they bear the image of Christ Pantocrator, closely copied from the solidus of the first reign Justinian II, but inscribed in Greek (the use of Latin had gradually died out at Constantinople). After Theodora was deposed, the coins of Michael III continued the same obverse design. Basil I "the Macedonian" came to the throne in A.D. 867 by murdering his friend and benefactor Michael III. With friends like that who needs enemies! On his common gold coinage, Basil placed an image of Christ enthroned, with the familiar "Rex Regnantium" inscription. This may be a copy of a mosaic above the throne in the imperial palace, restored after it was plastered over by the Iconoclasts. Composed of simple geometric forms, the crude image is remarkably awkward, even for this era of sharply declining artistic standards. For the next two centuries, variations on this image would alternate with the haloed head of Christ as the standard obverse on Byzantine coinage.

Gold Solidus of Michael III

Gold Solidus of Basil I with Constantine

It was not until the tenth century - almost a thousand years after the birth of Christ - that Jesus appeared on bronze coins. For a period of about 123 years, the Byzantine emperors abandoned the usual practice of putting their own portraits on coins. The emperor's portrait on the bronze coinage

gave way to a portrait of Christ. These coins have been dubbed 'anonymous' because they bear no name of a ruler or inscription to one. They were struck from A.D. 969 – 1092, and depicted only religious images and inscriptions. The first of this type were struck during the reign of John I Trizmisces and the last under Alexius. They were identified by class from Class A, with three subclasses A1, A2, and A3, through to Class M. They appeared in large and small flans with various designs. Approximately sixteen different types of these bronze coins were struck, all designed to honor Christ and all acknowledging the subservient role of the emperor. Virtually all of them feature a bearded bust of Christ that emerges from a cross surrounded by a halo. The reverses of these coins display various designs and legends. The most common reverses are the four-line legend, “Jesus Christ King of Kings" (IHSUS XRISTUS BASILEU BASILE) or the two-line legend, “May Jesus Christ Conquer" (IC XC on the top left and top right sides of a cross, and NI- KA on the bottom left and right sides of a cross). These remarkable coins are known as "anonymous Byzantine folles". The follis was the largest bronze denomination issued by the Byzantine Empire, and their large size, along with the Christian motif and relatively inexpensive price tag, make them a popular coin type for collectors.

Class A3 anonymous Folis struck under Basil II & Constantine VIII

Theodora, the last survivor of the Macedonian dynasty founded by Basil I, ruled briefly in her own name from January, A.D. 1055 to her death in August, A.D. 1056. The very well executed coinage of this reign introduced a full length standing figure of Christ. This image

Gold Histamenon Nomisma of Theodora with the Virgin Mary

may be the icon called Christ Chalkites, which stood above the main entrance of the imperial palace. On the reverse, the empress stands beside the Virgin Mary. A very different image of Christ, holding a scroll and raising His right hand in benediction, was introduced on the gold hyperpyron of Manuel Komnenos, who ruled during A.D. 1143-1180. Instead of being presented as a mature, bearded figure, Christ is shown as a young child. The inscription is an abbreviated Greek invocation to the Virgin Mary for help. Some observers have noticed a striking similarity between this design, known as Christ Emmanuel, and the known depictions of the Buddha.

Gold Hyperpyron of Manuel I and a Youthful Christ

Constantinople was at last recaptured by Michael VIII Paleologos in A.D. 1261 from the "Latins", who had held it since A.D. 1204. On the reverse of his gold hyperpyron, there is a complex scene of the emperor kneeling before the standing figure of Christ, while his namesake, the Archangel Michael, hovers in the background. Most surviving examples of this type are poorly struck, from badly worn dies and with deep edge cracks. The last coinage in the name of a Byzantine emperor was struck under Constantine XI during the final siege of Constantinople in A.D. 1453. The obverse image of Christ is reduced to a

A remarkable example of a gold Hyperpyron of Michael VIII

Silver Eighth Stavraton of Constantine XI

few tentative strokes and dots, scarcely recognizable as a face. The fabric is crude, struck on recycled silver from church altar vessels in order to pay mercenaries. It was illustrative of just how far the empire had fallen.

Ancient Byzantine coins depict Christ's image under many emperors in a variety of styles. Though busts of Christ were common on Byzantine coins, many times he was shown as a full figure seated on an elaborate throne. Far less-commonly, Christ is shown as a standing figure. The most abundant images of Christ on Byzantine coinage occur on the anonymous folles. The image of Jesus Christ has been – and almost certainly will remain – one of the most popular themes for collectors of Byzantine coins, and even for anyone who would like to just own one portrait coin of Jesus Christ. Enjoy!

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A BLAST FROM THE PAST ...

By: Daniel M. Freeman, NCNA LM#113

"HISTORY 101"

There were only a few things I liked about going to school: recess, lunch time, and the get out of school bell. But, I did like history. I always looked forward to my history classes. Of course United States history was my favorite, but the history of other civilizations were more important. Only by observing the successes and failures of others can we succeed. It is a shame and should be a crime that the politicians that are running our local, state, and national governments do not understand history or its implications for the present.

Rome, the shining city on a hill. In the eyes of the Romans they were the greatest civilization on earth. They had their armies stretched out to all the corners of the known world, imposing their way of life, and their form of government on the people. The citizens of Rome itself were becoming more reliant on a welfare state. Free food, distributions of money, public games and entertainment. The people of surrounding cities and districts that grew food or raised livestock were heavily taxed to support Rome. When taxes alone were not enough to support Rome, the Romans just simply started "debasing" their money. The weight of their gold and silver coins became lighter. They started producing more and more bronze coinage. As fewer Roman citizens felt the need to work, more and more immigrants were brought in to fill the need. A perfect recipe was brewing for a total collapse of the Roman Empire. The recipe was a success. Remind you of a current government?

Fast forward now to the United States…we rebelled against the King of England for unfair taxation and a multitude of other reasons. We created our own country so we could keep what we earned, not give it all away in the form of unjust taxes. But just like Rome, when taxes alone do not suffice, we debase our own money.

The massive bank failures leading into the Great Depression of the 1930's scared the public into hoarding gold. The United States, being on a "Gold Standard" did not have enough gold in reserves to pay our debts if gold was demanded. So in 1933, newly elected President Roosevelt, by Executive Order, demanded that the public turn in all gold coins, bullion,

and gold certificates. Other issued monies of the United States would be exchanged for what was turned in. Individuals could keep up to $100 of gold or gold certificates. A special exemption was also made for "rare gold coins" of special value to collectors. Before this order, gold was valued at $20.67 per ounce. After hundreds of millions in gold had been turned over, in 1934 the government set the official price at $35.00 per ounce. This effectively increased the value of the gold on the government's books by almost 70%. The government could now print more money. And so this continued until 1971 when President Nixon realized all of the U.S. gold supply would end up in France and other foreign countries that demanded gold in place of the paper dollars in their hands, took the U.S. off the gold standard.

Since that time, our money is backed simply by the statement, "Backed by the full faith and credit of the United States". One can imagine what happens when people no longer have faith in the ability of the government to pay its debts, or you could just take a look back at history. Until next time…

References: Grant, Michael, "The Climax of Rome", Little, Brown & Co. 1968
Executive Order issued by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, April 5, 1933

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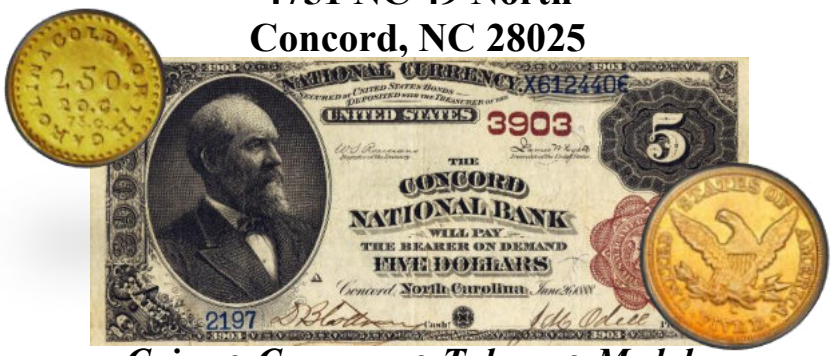
COIN SHOW

North Carolina Numismatic Association 62nd Annual Convention & Show

October 2, 3 & 4 • 2020

Fri/Sat 10am – 6pm • Sun 10am – 3pm

Cabarrus Arena & Events Center
4751 NC 49 North
Concord, NC 28025



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• YN Activity - Scavenger Hunt only - Saturday •
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Gold Coin Drawings • FREE Admission • FREE Parking

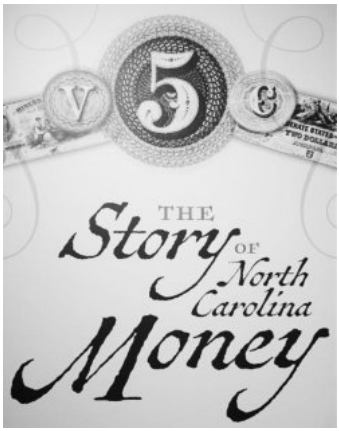
For the latest show updates, visit **www.NCNA.club**
Bourse - Perry Siegel 704.488.4787/herakles@heraklescoins.com

The Story of North Carolina Money

A New Exhibit at UNC-Chapel Hill

By Bob Schreiner

The Story of North Carolina Money, an exhibit in the North Carolina Collection Gallery housed in the Wilson Special Collections Library at UNC-Chapel, is aimed at educating the general public about the rich legacy of our money from the colonial era to the present. The Gallery serves as the exhibit component of the North Carolina Collection and the holding place for over 30,000 museum items. Artifacts include a Masonic apron believed worn at the 1793 laying of the cornerstone of Old East, the first state university building in the United States, and a rifle owned by Chang Bunker, brother of Eng, the original Siamese twins, who spent their last decades in Surry County. A substantial part of the Gallery's holdings is almost 10,000 coins, paper money, tokens, and medals, and *The Story of North Carolina Money* displays some of the best specimens.



Special Collections Library

The Louis Round Wilson Special Collections Library, part of the Libraries at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, holds much more than just books. It does indeed have an unmatched collection of books about North Carolina or by North Carolinians in the North Carolina Collection. The Rare Book Collection includes close to 200,000 printed volumes, as well as substantial holdings of original graphics, medieval and Renaissance manuscripts, and literary and historical papers. The Southern Historical Collection holds manuscripts and family papers pertaining to the American South. In the Southern Folklife Collection you will find among 10s of thousands of folk music recordings, artifacts such as a guitar owned by Andy Griffith.

As a part-time curatorial specialist in the Gallery for the last several years, I had the privilege to help develop the exhibit. I worked with Gallery Keeper Linda Jacobson to create a narrative. I then selected items to display, and prepared text and chose images for the interpretive panels. Jacobson worked with Studio Displays in Pineville, NC and Washington DC-based HealyKohler Design to design and fabricate major exhibit components.

We divided the materials exhibited into distinct chapters, as follows.

The early period focuses primarily on the 18th Century. We have a panel about barter and commodity exchange among native North Carolinians and early European settlers. Displayed are examples of North Carolina's early paper money and a Spanish milled dollar, the forebearer of the United States dollar. Perhaps our most precious item is an original Carolina Elephant Token, the earliest known numismatic object bearing the name Carolina. The history of this mysterious object, probably better categorized as a medal, was written by former Gallery Keeper Neil Fulghum and published by the American Numismatic Society. The article can be found here: https://dc.lib.unc.edu/ui/custom/default/collection/coll_numismatics/images/elephanttoken.pdf.

The Herman Bernard Bechtler Collection

North Carolina gold. The exhibit explores the North Carolina gold rush. Displayed are the 24-piece Herman Bernard Collection of Bechtler coins, those of both North Carolina and Georgia. We also have two contemporary counterfeit Bechtler coins. The Bechtler gold is complemented by a complete set of Charlotte $5 gold coins, on long-term loan.

The antebellum period. This was the era of private paper money. Displayed are a few notes and a very special item, a copper plate used to produce counterfeit $10 notes from the Bank of the State of North Carolina (Pennell 1170). This very plate produced the surviving examples now in the hands of collectors. I know of only one genuine example of this rare issue.

The Civil War. The Gallery holds more than 3400 examples of North Carolina Civil War Treasury notes. We display a small selection of these along with North Carolina scrip and Confederate notes. A key item is a note issued by W. Shelburn, a North Carolina sutler. It was used for exchange with the Fourth Brigade of North Carolina troops.

The Exhibit Room

Money after 1865. On display is a pair of National Bank notes and a stock certificate from the Raleigh and Gaston Rail-Road Company. Miscellaneous items include the local currency NC PLENTY and a casino chip from Cherokee, North Carolina.

Medals and tokens. We display playwright Paul Green's gold medal for the North Carolina Award, the State's highest civilian honor, and the UNC Bicentennial Medal that astronaut Dr. Jerry Linenger, a UNC alumnus, carried aboard the space shuttle Discovery in September 1994. The medal is still in its original protective plastic wrapper. When UNC-CH professor Dr. Aziz Sancar won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 2015, he donated one of his three official replicas to the Gallery exhibit.

The Library's commitment to numismatics is demonstrated by designating *The Story of North Carolina Money* a permanent exhibit. But it is not static. The content of the exhibit will change periodically.

An exhibit is meant to be viewed, not described in an article. You are welcome to visit the Wilson Special Collections Library in Chapel Hill. To learn more, see web site https://library.unc.edu/wilson/. At time of publication, Wilson Library is closed because of the virus. Check the Library web site https://library.unc.edu before planning a visit.

Find more images of the exhibit at
https://oldnote.smugmug.com/Other/The-Story-of-North-Carolina-Money/

About the author: Bob Schreiner is a past president of the NCNA and the Raleigh Coin Club. He works part-time at the Gallery in Wilson Library, where he has organized the numismatic collection. He is a recovering collector.

♣ News from the Clubs ♣

Go to the NCNA website for the most recent updates on local club contacts, information, and news.

Statesville Coin Club

The Statesville Coin Club was started in 1995 and is celebrating its 25th Anniversary in 2020! The club is currently planning the special issue of one ounce silver and copper anniversary medallion coins to celebrate this milestone. The medallions are available at $6 for each copper medallion and $25 for each silver medallion.

The Statesville Coin Club has given out dated unique wooden nickels at its coin show each year, with 25 different ones being issued so far. The club will have issued 4 different silver medallions over the 25 years of its existence as well.

The Statesville club has still not been able to meet yet this summer due to the COVID-19 situation, and their club show scheduled for August was cancelled. However, they still hope to celebrate their 25th anniversary with an upcoming special event and publicize that soon.

Attention NCNA Member Coin Clubs!

The *NCNA Journal* needs your club news and activity updates!

Club leaders: Why not designate someone in your club to send regular updates on your club's activities to the *Journal?*

Updates can be sent to Greg Cheek at ghcheek@earthlink.net or Greg Cheek – NCNA, PO Box 185, Yadkinville, NC 27055.

Thanks in advance for your help with keeping all NCNA members updated and aware of what is going on in our member clubs.

Dream Coins I'll Probably Never Have

By Cole Peoples

A coin does not necessarily have to be expensive to be desirable. You can buy a cheap coin and still love it like you might love a rare one. In my opinion the price of a coin should never determine how much you like it. You should like it because of its looks or how rare it is. It can even be because of how you got it; a neat story can make even a dull coin interesting. Despite all this, what I will be talking about today is expensive coins that I would love to have. I would consider these my dream coins, and would love to have any of these at some point in the future.

Everyone who knows me is aware of what I like to collect, but for the people who don't know let me quickly fill you in. I'll start off by saying that I 100 percent prefer world coins over US coins. I am not saying that I don't like anything from the US, but I grew up mainly collecting world. Getting back on track, my favorite type of coins are ones from Japan and China. I think their designs and the shapes they come in are so creative. The example I usually give is a Japanese coin called a yen. I am not talking about the little aluminum yens that are currently being made right now, but the Morgan Dollar sized silver coins that were minted in the 1800s. These coins have a dragon on the obverse covering pretty much the whole coin. They are so detailed and there are so many great varieties. Not only can the border text be different, but the scale shape can even be different. I just love the design and how detailed it is. To me this coin alone is better than almost every US coin I have ever seen.

On the topic of the yen, there is a very similar coin that I would like to start off with. This coin is called a Japanese trade dollar and it looks very similar to a yen. It has the exact same dragon on the obverse and the exact same wreath on the reverse. The only differences are the symbols on the front and the center of the back. The bottom text also says trade dollar on it instead of one yen, so when you see one it is quite obvious. I have always liked the yen series so when I

discovered this coin I knew that I had to have one. In recent auctions they have been going anywhere from $650 to $4,000 depending on the grade. There are pattern varieties for trade dollars, but only a few have ever been sold. There is nothing crazy or amazing about this coin, but if you are collecting the yen series then this is definitely a must have addition.

The second coin I would like to bring up would have to be a Chinese coin called the birds over junk dollar. The series it comes from is made up of 3 different coins from the years 1932 to 1934. Out of these 3 years the birds over junk variety is from 1932. The 2 others in the series are just called junk dollars since the birds were removed. When the coin was first minted in 1932 the design upset people right away. The reason people were getting upset was due to the sun and the birds over the ship. People thought that the birds looked like bombers and the sun was a symbol of Japan. This may have been ok during another time period, but when the coin was minted there was an intense rivalry between Japan and China. I personally am a fan of coins that have boats on them, and since it was Chinese I ended up liking this coin long before I even knew the reason behind the changes. Not only does it have a ship called a junk on it, but it has a really fascinating story as well. Even though the coin only has a bald guy, ship, and birds on it, I think the story alone is a good enough reason to spend $10,000. Just imagine how shiny Sun Yat-Sen's head would be on an uncirculated coin.

The auto dollar is probably the most famous coin I mention in this article. If you have worked with Chinese coins at any point there is definitely a chance you have heard of it. The coin was minted in 1928 by the warlord Zhou Xicheng. It is yet another simple looking coin where the story behind it makes it even better. The obverse has a car driving on a road where the reverse is just typical Chinese text. The car is the special thing and is the whole reason this coin was made. It was made by Zhou Xicheng with the sole purpose of being able to show off his car and the first paved road in the whole province. During the time period this coin was minted there were hardly any cars and certainly not any roads to drive one on. Cars were so rare that in order to get the car it was

shipped all the way from the United States, disassembled, carried on foot through the mountains, and then reassembled. Imagine doing all of this and then not having anywhere to drive it, so you just decide to make a huge road where you are the only person capable of using it. While doing some research I learned that the road was actually part of a famine relief program and was managed by an American engineer. On top of all this there is actually hidden text on this coin. While designing the coin the warlord wanted to have his face put on it, but putting your face on a coin before you die is probably not a good idea. If he had done this he would have probably been put to death. Thinking about this they decided to put his name in the grass on the obverse. In order to read it you have to turn the coin 90 degrees so that the car is facing up. It isn't in English like text on some other Chinese coins, but it is certainly still fun to know that it is there. Sadly this coin is pretty high up there in price where a VF can go for over $8,000.

The final coin that I will be talking about is the Szechuan-Shensi soviet dollar. The design is interesting because it is one of the few Chinese coins you will ever find with a hammer and a sickle on it. This coin happened to be from Communist China and was minted in 1934. The far from normal design is a big part of why I want to get this coin, but there is a second reason why I want it. A few years ago I figured out that my dad actually had one of these coins and crazily it was an XF. When he was telling me about the condition and how he got a good deal on it I was so excited to see it, but sadly that would never happen. Why? You may ask. Well, that is because he

decided to sell it. At the time he sold it he got a good deal, but sadly now the coin is worth way more. I wish he hadn't sold it and know that he feels the same way. We probably have different reasons though since he probably wants it back because it is worth a lot more now, and I want it back so I can take it from him. Seeing that this coin is around $20,000 in XF it is going to be a long time before I get this one.

I love all of these coins and think that they are all very amazing. There are obviously many more coins that I would love to have but these are my top picks for sure. If I had to pick my favorite out of the 4 I think that I would have to pick the auto dollar. The history behind it is just so interesting and the design is something special. I just love the car and the way it looks. When I see an auto dollar I think about the car and how amazing it would have looked in person and imagine what it would look like driving on a completely empty road. I bet it would look super funny. I learned a lot from writing this article and I now more than ever want to get one of these coins. I hope that it will happen eventually, I will just have to wait for the right opportunity where I have enough money and find a good deal.

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Current NCNA members may place a free, text-only buy/sell/trade ad in the *NCNA Journal*. Ads are limited to 50 words (more as space allows). Ads from non-members will be considered as space allows; cost for non-members is 25¢ per word (minimum of 20 words). The NCNA reserves the right to edit ads to fit the available space, and to refuse ads at its discretion.

WANTED: North Carolina trolley and bus tokens to complete my state-wide collection. I need two plastic tokens from Goldsboro that have "Silverline Transportation" on one side with dollar values on the other. Also, two aluminum tokens from Thomasville that have "Thomasville Transit Co." on one side and "Good for one fare" on the other. Other less common tokens being sought are: Asheville (Biltmore Forest Stage Co.), Elizabeth City (Lucas VA-CAR Bus Lines), Greenville (City Bus Lines) and High Point (Duke Power Co High Point). If you have any of these to sell, or know someone who does, please contact me at jeff.mccauslin@gmail.com.

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FOR SALE: Complete set of US Commemorative set of half dollars including the Lafayette Dollar and the Isabella Quarter. There are also extra coins such as the Grant with Star, Missouri 2x4, and Alabama 2x2. A very nice set of high grade coins. Contact Eric Dailey at ericdailey@roadrunner.com or 704-880-2925 to discuss and or set up an appointment.

***Your ad can be here in the next issue of the* NCNA Journal!**

2020 NCNA Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

All NCNA BOD meetings are open to the NCNA membership. BOD meetings are scheduled for Saturday immediately following the close of the bourse and times will vary. *Please note that at this year's NCNA Convention, we will not conduct our normal General Membership Meeting due to the COVID situation.*

Meeting Location	**Date**
Raleigh Money Expo - Raleigh Coin Show NC State Fairground Exposition Center	June 6, 2020 CANCELLED
Iredell-Statesville Coin Club Show – Statesville show facility	August 8, 2020 CANCELLED
NCNA Convention – General Membership Cabarrus Arena show facility	October 3, 2020 CANCELLED
Carolina Coin & Stamp Show – Raleigh show facility	November 21, 2020

2020 NCNA Local Club Outreach & Coordination

NCNA BOD Directors Bill Graves and Danny Freeman have reached out to local clubs for updated contact and other information, which has been posted on the NCNA website. They are continuing to reach out to local coin clubs and facilitate forums for sharing ideas and forming partnerships in 2020 and beyond. Please feel free to contact Bill or Danny, as they are very interested in your ideas and suggestions.

2020 NCNA Website (http://www.NCNA.CLUB)

The NCNA website is an important tool for sharing information with the membership. Alan Stullenbarger currently serves as our webmaster, with Perry Siegel providing administration for the website. Local club representatives should send all local club contact updates and news to Perry Siegel. Please send all coin and stamp show updates to Bill Graves.

2020 NCNA Facebook Page & Other Social Media (www.facebook.com/NCCollector)

The NCNA Facebook page is another important tool for sharing information with the membership and beyond. Paul Landsberg has taken on Facebook administrative activities for our page, exploring fresh ideas in utilizing other social media to promote our hobby. Please feel free to share your ideas and suggestions with Paul in the social media arena. This is still a fairly under explored area and much more can be done to use it to promote the hobby.

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Officers and Directors

President: Greg Cheek • 336.428.2026 • ghcheek@earthlink.net
1st Vice President: Perry Siegel • 704.488.4787 • herakles@heraklescoins.com
2nd Vice President: Danny Freeman • 910.740.6751 • southerngoldcoins@yahoo.com
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Charles Gray 919.219.6906 graycorner@aol.com	Paul Landsberg 919.247.1982 paul_landsberg@yahoo.com	Mickey Smith 910.497.5445

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Journal Editor: Greg Cheek • 336-428-2026 • ghcheek@earthlink.net
Bourse Chair: Perry Siegel • 704.488.4787 • herakles@heraklescoins.com
YN Coordinator: Bob Pedolsky • 704.408.8511 • rpedolsky@carolina.rr.com
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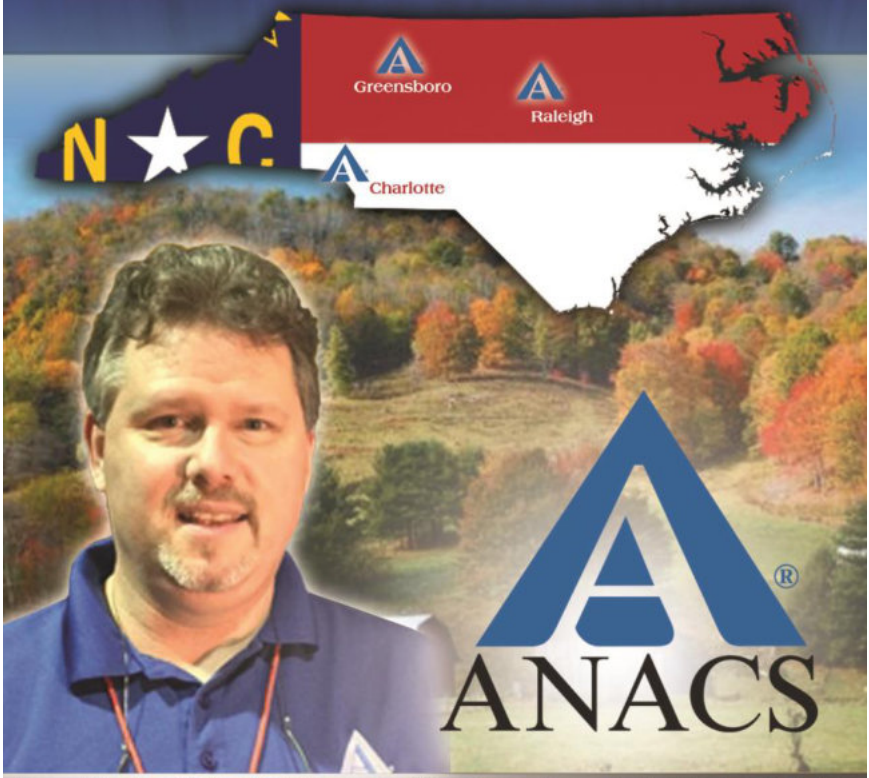

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